

REMARKS**A. Status of Pending Claims and Explanations of the Amendments**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to their representative during a telephone conference on February 24, 2004. During the conference, Examiner reviewed Applicants' proposed changes to the claims and indicated that the amendments should be filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), and not as an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

Accordingly, Applicants submit a Request for Continued Examination with this paper. Claims 13, 28, 54, and 55 have been amended to further clarify the invention. Specifically, claims 13, 28, and 54 have been rewritten so that elements that were in the preamble are now in the body of the claim. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims, if anything, are narrower in scope than the previously allowed versions of the same claims, because there are additional elements in the body of the claim. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 13, 28, and 54 are allowable.

Claim 55 is similarly allowable. The preamble of claim 55 has been rewritten to clarify the language and certain elements that were in the preamble have been moved to the body of the claim. Accordingly, Applicants believe that amended claim 55 is narrower in scope than the previously allowed version of claim 55. Accordingly, amended claim 55 is allowable as well.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments to the claims are minor. Accordingly, all claims are believed to be still in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and allowance of all of the claims.

AUTHORIZATION

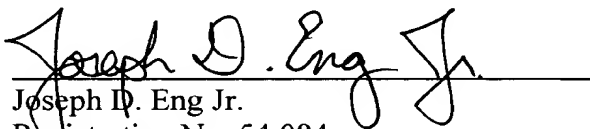
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4785. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4785. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 24, 2004

By:


Joseph D. Eng Jr.
Registration No. 54,084
(212) 758-4800 Telephone
(212) 751-6849 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154-0053